ARE YOU WATER SMART?

What is Tucson's average yearly precipitation?

A. 11″ to 12″
B. 15″ to 16″
C. 18″ to 19″

Answer: A. We average only 11″ to 12″ of precipitation a year.

WATER MATTERS

inside this issue

Learn about natural renewable water supplies: the definition, the restrictions and the potential.

(See Working with Water, pg 4 & 5)

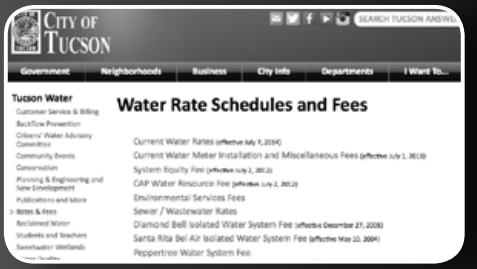
TUCSON WATER

water.tucsonaz.com/water

WATER Etc.

Customer Question

How can I find out more about Tucson Water rates and fees?



Go to the Tucson Water **water.tucsonaz.gov/water** and click on Rates & Fees for information about water rates for residential, commercial, industrial and multi-family customer groups. You'll also be able to read more about Tucson Water's financial plan and see input about rates from the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee. Your monthly utility services statement also itemizes information about water usage and fees.

CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Bring Your Own Bag Tucson

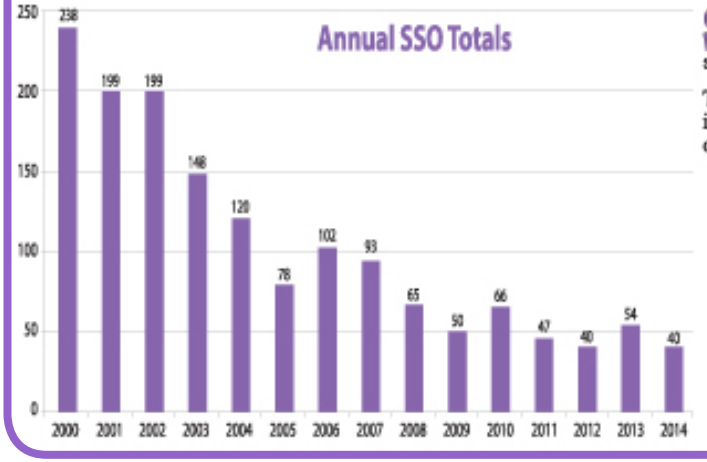
In a year's time, nearly 135 million single-use plastic bags were distributed in Tucson. Yes, plastic bags can be handy but they can be an eyesore and become litter, caught in plants, blowing in streets, and clogging drainage facilities. Here are some easy ways you can reduce consumption of plastic bags:

- **Bring your own bag when you shop.** Reusable bags hold more items and some reusable bags are insulated to ensure better food and beverage temperatures.
- Only buying 1 or 2 items? **Refuse the plastic bag** and carry out.
- **Re-use plastic bags** to line wastebaskets or to deposit pet waste.
- **Recycle plastic bags, film and wrap** at local grocers and retailers. Most recycled plastic bags are used to make composite lumber. From January 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014, Tucsonans recycled 362 tons of plastic bags.

Small changes in habits can make a positive impact. Learn more at **http://es.tucsonaz.gov/es/tucsons-plastic-bag-ordinance**.

PIMA COUNTY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Sanitary Sewer Overflows on the Decline.



Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO)s are the backup of raw sewage into your home, streets or the environment.

Two factors have led to a significant decline in the number of SSOs experienced in our community:

- The efforts of our staff in maintaining the sanitary sewers, and
- The efforts of our customers in keeping cooking oils and grease out of their drains.

PIMA COUNTY
WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, environmental services, and wastewater.

Environmental Services (ES) (520) 791-3171 or visit tucsonaz.gov/esd
Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) (520) 724-6500 or visit www.pima.gov/government/wastewaterreclamation

WORKING WITH WATER

Chief Hydrologist Wally Wilson explains the basics of natural renewable water supplies and the role they play in making our community sustainable.

● **Define a natural renewable water supply.** "A natural renewable water resource is water that is part of the natural hydrologic cycle, replenished in a reliable timeframe and available in volume year to year. Remember the nature's water cycle diagram from elementary school: clouds release snow or rain, which flows into rivers and lakes, and eventually evaporates, is consumed or becomes a part of the aquifer"

● **So is the CAP Colorado River water considered renewable?** "Yes, Colorado River water is renewable but it has limitations. Tucson Water can only access the legally defined maximum yearly allocation of Colorado River water. The long term drought and impacts of climate change on the Colorado River may also cause legal and physical restrictions on how much of that water can be delivered to users. If there is reduced precipitation contributing to the natural water cycle in the Rocky Mountains, that directly impacts the flow volume of the Colorado River."

● **But doesn't groundwater take millions of years to replenish? How renewable is it really?** "Tucson Water only has a legal right to a fixed amount of groundwater we can pump and yes, it can take hundreds of years to replenish the water table to pre-1940 levels. Groundwater wells can be pumped dry. That is why we represent groundwater as a finite resource, and consider it a non-renewable supply."

● **The Arizona Department of Water Resources requires Tucson Water – and all water utilities – to demonstrate that they have an assured water supply for a 100-year timeframe.** "Tucson Water must update the assured water supply demonstration every 10 years. However, our long range planning horizon is only 50 years because there are too many uncertainties to try to plan beyond that timeframe."

● **What is Tucson Water doing to leverage all of our natural renewable water resources?**
"Tucson Water is:

- purchasing our maximum yearly allocation of CAP Colorado River water.
- recharging and storing unused CAP water for the future.
- budgeting for and building and maintaining infrastructure.
- studying innovative ways that we can recycle and reuse all water resources.
- planning for the future – we constantly update long range and drought response plans with fresh current data."

● **Why should I care about natural renewable water resources?** "Without them, Tucson would not be a sustainable community. Ensuring water reliability and sustainability is the key to our future."

CLICK	WATCH	CALL	TDD	SCAN
water.tucsonaz.gov/water	youtube.com/tucsonwater	English & Español: (520) 791-4331	(520) 791-2639	

What Tucson Water is Doing

We have dedicated water conservation inspectors on the streets, educating violators about stopping water waste and issuing citations.

What You Can Do

Use SeeClickFix to report and track water efficiency issues: water in the streets, graffiti on water facilities, and more. Go to **http://en.seeclickfix.com** to download iOS/Android apps or to use the website.

NATURAL RENEWABLE WATER SOURCES